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**RHNA REFORM TASK FORCE  
of the  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**October 28, 2008  
Minutes**

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**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AND/OR DISCUSSIONS BY THE RHNA REFORM TASK FORCE. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING AT SCAG'S DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES OFFICE.**

The RHNA Reform Task Force held its meeting on October 28, 2008 at SCAG's downtown Los Angeles office.

**Members Present**

Beauman, John (via teleconference)	Brea
Becerra, Glen	Simi Valley
Bone, Lou	Tustin
Clark, Margaret	Rosemead
Dixon, Richard ( <b>Chair</b> )	Lake Forest
Gilbreath, Pat (via videoconference)	Redlands
Hanks, Keith	Azusa
Lowe, Robin (via videoconference)	Hemet
McCallon, Larry	Highland
Morehouse, Carl	Ventura
Murray, Kris	Orange County, OCBC, Ex-Officio

**Members Not Present**

Baldwin, Harry	San Gabriel
Edney, Jon	El Centro
Parks, Bernard	Los Angeles
Stone, Jeff	Riverside County

**SCAG Staff**

Joann Africa  
Joe Carreras  
Ping Chang  
Hasan Ikhrata  
Jacob Lieb  
Huasha Liu

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Richard Dixon.

## **2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Public comments were heard later in the meeting.

## **3.0 WELCOME**

President Dixon welcomed everyone to the first RHNA Reform Task Force meeting, and stated that the primary purpose of the first meeting was to have an open dialog and exchange of ideas and information. President Dixon stated that he has established four priorities for moving SCAG into the future: 1) Regional Aviation Planning; 2) Goods Movement; 3) Assisting cities with the implementation of SB 375 and AB 32; and 4) Establishing the RHNA Reform Task Force.

Hasan Ikhata, SCAG's Executive Director, stated that as the RHNA is an unfunded state mandate, it presents a significant financial burden to SCAG, and SCAG cannot afford to continue the RHNA process without some reform. Mr. Ikhata encouraged the task force to take this exercise very seriously.

## **4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **4.1 RHNA Reform Principles; 2002 and 2005**

Joe Carreras, SCAG staff, introduced the Guiding RHNA Principles for 2002 and 2005, and provided historical information on the RHNA process and how it has evolved over the years.

### **4.2 Most Recent Reforms in RHNA and Housing Element Law**

Jacob Lieb, SCAG staff, stated that he participated in the statewide housing element reform working group in 2002 and 2003, which led to the passage of AB 2158. Mr. Lieb provided some general observations about what typically happens in a housing element reform discussion, in terms of stakeholders and issues that arise in Sacramento. Mr. Lieb provided an overview of housing element legislation, and how it relates to local government, metropolitan planning organizations, the building industry and the business community. Mr. Lieb emphasized that there are well-organized and motivated constituencies on both sides of the housing issue.

### **4.3 RHNA Reform Work Plan**

Mike Madrid, with Madrid & Associates, provided some background on his experience working with various political organizations and local jurisdictions. Mr. Madrid stated that his expertise is in influencing public opinion, and noted that gaining the support of the public will be extremely important in taking the first steps toward RHNA reform.

President Dixon stated that in order for the task force to be successful, it will require three key components working together: 1) Elected officials and members of the task force making the policy recommendations; 2) SCAG staff providing the technical expertise; and 3) Mr. Madrid providing the strategy for implementation of the reform process. President Dixon referred to the timeline

presented in the agenda packet and stated that one major component is during the week of November 17<sup>th</sup>, when the reform issues will be presented to private sector partners, including the Building Industry Association, the Orange County Business Council, and The Irvine Company. President Dixon further stated that another important part of the outreach will be to gain the support of the other Council of Governments within the state.

A discussion ensued regarding various topics including: 1) whether or not local and state government should control land use issues; and 2) the criteria used for arriving at the RHNA numbers. The task force agreed that if SCAG continues to be responsible for the RHNA process, then the methodologies of the process will need to be examined to facilitate a less cumbersome process for the jurisdictions involved.

President Dixon opened the public comment period.

Ty Schuiling, SANBAG, stated that he fully supports the idea of reform and encouraged SCAG to continue with its efforts.

Mary Ann Krause, former Mayor of Santa Paula, stated that she does not support any major reform at this time until immigration issues have been dealt with at the Federal level.

Mr. Ikhrata stated that he met with Lynn Jacobs and Cathy Creswell from HCD, and he does not anticipate any major reform being pursued with the existing HCD staff. Mr. Ikhrata also stated that Ms. Jacobs has offered to come and speak to this task force.

Mr. Ikhrata emphasized that in order to move forward effectively, it is important for the task force to provide specific direction to Mr. Madrid, so that he can come back to the next meeting with a report providing guidance and strategy on procedural issues to be developed. Joann Africa, Interim Chief Counsel, provided a summary of next steps for Mr. Madrid: 1) report back with respect to understanding SCAG's methodology, how we undertake the numbers and what we receive from the state; 2) report back with possible types of reform, which would include a ballot measure eliminating the RHNA or legislation addressing the fixes within the current law; 3) consider having the subregions bypass SCAG and work directly with the state and cities; 4) legislation that would provide funding for RHNA, whether it be for SCAG or subregions who undertake the delegation; 5) SCAG staff working directly with local planners to obtain the RHNA numbers before going through the process; 6) legislation regarding adoption of a State Land Use Plan, 7) addressing cross-county housing issues; and 8) addressing social issues such as immigration.

**5.0     CHAIR’S REPORT**

President Dixon stated that the next meeting will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup>, and participants may attend that meeting and all subsequent meetings via teleconference or video conference if they so choose. He further stated that initially the task force will meet bi-monthly. He suggested that the meetings be attended by relevant staff and legislative advocates, in addition to the task force members.

**6.0     STAFF REPORT**

Joe Carreras informed the task force members that all meeting agendas and materials relating to topics of discussion will be posted on the Housing Page of SCAG’s website.

**7.0     FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Madrid will present his strategy report.

**8.0     ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**9.0     ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:10 PM.

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Huasha Liu, Director  
Planning Methods, Assessment  
& Compliance